SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

6th Year — May 22, 1972

No 148

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

"On May 8, 1972, US president Nixon announced military measures to intensify to the highest level of savageness the attacks on the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. Immediately after that, US air and naval forces started mining and blocking otherwise all sea entries to the ports of North Viet Nam.

This highly adventurous and crazy act of war escalation of the Nixon administration is a brutal encroachment on the sovereignty and security of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and an insolent challenge to the socialist countries, the other countries of peace and justice, and the public in the world and the United States as well. This act of international brigandage of the Nixon administration is also a contravention of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam, and of the most elementary principles of international law, and a violation of the freedom of navigation and of trade of the countries in the world...

The DRVN Government vehemently denounces this war escalation of the Nixon administration, and energetically demands the latter to stop mining and sealing up otherwise the entries to North Vietnamese ports, and to put an end to the bombardments and all other encroachments on the sovereignty and security of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

The DRVN Government calls on the armed forces and the entire people to unite millions as one man, to endeavour to carry out the Testament of our beloved President Ho Chi Minh, and to enhance our revolutionary heroism, in order to fight resolutely for the liberation of the South, the defence and construction of the socialist North, and the ultimate peaceful reunification of the Fatherland, and to join the fraternal peoples of Laos and Cambodia in this resolute struggle to rid the Indochinese peninsula of US imperialism."

(Statement of the DRVN government on Nixon's war escalation)

The Nixon administration is dreaming of saving the "Vietnamization of the war" policy and the Saigon regime from total collapse, and creating a position of strength to force the Vietnamese people to accept a settlement in accordance with its insolent conditions. Let US President Nixon and Co know that their adventurous policy cannot change the situation in South Viet Nam, but only drive the United States deeper in the war in Viet Nam and lengthen the list of dead, wounded and captured GIs in Viet Nam.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam voices its total approval of the May 10, 1972 statement of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

The US Government must stop at once the mining and blockading of the sea ports in North Viet Nam and put an end to its bombardments and other war acts against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. Each person, inch of land, enterprise, cooperative and school in North Viet Nam is so dear to the South Vietnamese people. If the US imperialist aggressors strike the North once, the South Vietnamese people will punish them ten times harder.

The US government must end immediately its aggressive war in South Viet Nam, the "Vietnamisation of the war" policy, negotiate seriously at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, and positively respond to the PRG's seven-point solution of which the two key-points have been elaborated.

(Statement of the RSVN on the Nixon administration's feverish act of war escalation)

THE AGGRESSOR : US IMPERIALISM

IN mid-1950, raising the "spread of communism throughout SEA" bogey, the US imperialists rigged up the SEATO military bloc to intimidate the countries in this area and break the will to fight for unity of the Vietnamese.

They even went so far as to scrap the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam, introduce masses of troops and war material into South Viet Nam, elevate Ngo Dinh Diem to the position of President of the Saigon regime and, through the agency of this bloodthirsty protégé of theirs, try to realize neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam and make it a military base and a springboard for aggression against North Viet Nam. However their dark schemes dismally failed at the hands of the South Vietnamese. The latter have amply substantiated this truth of our time : where there is aggression there are people who resist and defeat it.

Yet the nature of US imperialism remains unchanged. US President Johnson concocted the so-called "Tonkin Gulf incident", then brought US and satellite troops and war material en masse into South Viet Nam to widen the war there, and hurled US air and naval forces into savage attacks against the DRVN. After nearly 4 years of flag showing, the so-called "US air superiority" was debunked by the North Vietnamese armed forces and people. Following up the military successes of the previous years, the 1968 Tet offensives and uprisings of the South Vietnamese armed forces and people dealt staggering blows at the US-Thieu clique.

The gains of the people in both South and North Viet Nam compelled President Johnson to cease unconditionally all bombardments of North Viet Nam and agree to the holding of the quadripartite Conference in Paris to settle the Viet Nam problem.

At the end of their tether, the US imperialists have further bared their arrogance and cruelty. Of late, in an effort to slow down the collapse of the clique of traitors headed by Nguyen Van Thieu and prevent the toal bankruptcy of Nixon's Vietnamization under the impact of the sweeping offensives and uprisings of the South Vietnamese armed forces and people, the US aggressors have reiterated their shop-soiled "invasion of South Viet Nam by the North" charge. While embarking on a campaign of cynical slanders and sabotage of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam they have massively and frenziedly escalated their aero-naval war in Viet Nam. In a short period of time, they have beefed up to 715 the total number of aircraft used in strikes against both parts of Viet Nam, including 139 B-52. This B-52 buildup is far above the ceiling in Johnson's time. Nixon has also raised the troop strength on warships by tens of thousands of men and mustered the largest ever fleet of warships against Viet Nam.

It is clear that the aero-naval war escalation against the people of both South and North Viet Nam has brought to surface the fiasco of Nixon's Vietnamization. It has thrown more light on the extremely bellicose, obstinate and brutal nature of the Nixon clique and the Nguyen Van Thieu gang of traitors. Decidedly, the people of both South and North Viet Nam will not tolerate their truculent behaviour.

The US imperialists should bear in mind that Viet Nam is one nation and the Vietnamese are one and the same people. Throughout the 4,000 years of national building and defence no Vietnamese has ever meant or has done any harm to the US. On the contrary, the US imperialists have invaded Viet Nam for many years now. There is absolutely no Vietnamese aggressor against Viet Nam. There is only the crime of aggression committed by the US imperialists against Viet Nam. That is why every Vietnamese citizen's sacred duty is to resist US aggression anywhere on Vietnamese soil.

Neither quibbling nor arrogance on the part of the US imperialists can obscure their crime of aggression against Viet Nam, or help them parry the retaliatory blows of the North Vietnamese people. As the US imperialists have invaded Viet Nam, the entire Vietnamese people must fight resolutely against the aggression in defence of their independence and freedom. This is the firm resolve and right to self-defence of the Vietnamese people. Nobody can misrepresent it.

Over the past few weeks, in all 5 continents, the whole of progressive mankind, including the American people, have come out strongly against US military brutalities, and demanded that the fire-eating Nixon gang end at once the air and naval attacks against the DRVN, stop the aggressive war in Viet Nam, bring all US troops home, withhold support from the reactionary Nguyen Van Thieu regime and return to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam.

Such reactions from progressive mankind have disposed of the vicious "invasion of South Viet Nam by the North" accusation levelled by the US imperialists.

The Vietnamese, in the South and in the North, are determined to fight on until "the Yanks quit and the puppets topple." So long as the US imperialists persist in their aggression against Viet Nam, the Vietnamese people in both parts of the country will continue to resist it. No force on earth could shake this unbreakable will and resolution of theirs.

The US "puppet ground trocps plus *US air support" formula of the vietnamized war doomed to failure in all battlefields*

A new cold-blooded massacre of prisoners in Phu Quoc island

The new cold-blooded massacre of prisoners in the Cay Dua jail on Phu Quoc island has once more exploded the hypocrisy of Nixon's boast about humanitarian treatment of prisoners by the US and its puppets in South Viet Nam.

The goalers had opened fire and killed or wounded 80 persons detained in Cay Dua jail, Phu Quoc island in Rach Gia province.

The Cay Dua jail built in 1966 is composed of 10 sectors with 20 camps detaining nearly 30,000 persons. Five battalions of military police and 4 "civil guard" battalions are permanently stationed in the area. Repression and bloody massacres of prisoners had been perpetrated again and again at Cay Dua. In May 1969, 54 prisoners were killed or wounded ; in August 1969, 8 killed ; June 1970, 11 killed or wounded ; August 28, 1970, 13 killed ; September 13, 1970, 30 killed or wounded ; September 15, 1970, 30 killed or wounded ; September 15, 1970 23 killed or wounded ; and September 19, 1970, 22 killed or wounded.

According to still incomplete figures, on an average 9 per cent of the prisoners were killed and 15 per cent maimed every year. In 1969 alone, over 630 inmates were killed through barbarous tortures and beatings.

Over more than three years past, on Nixon's orders, the Thieu clique has continued their very brutal prison regime in South Viet Nam. Hundreds of thousands of patriots have been illegally arrested, tortured and maimed. Thousands were killed. Nixon has also given Thieu dollars to build more jails, equip them and train policemen and cruel thugs in the art of torture. The "tiger cages" built by the US-puppets have aroused world-wide anger. On April 25 last, while appearing as a defence witness at the conspiracy trial of 5 anti-war Americans, journalist Don Luce who had disclosed the "tiger cages" in South Viet Nam, produced a copy of a contract dated January 7, 1971 in which the US agreed to pay the RMK-BRJ 300,000 dollars for construction of 384 cells smaller than the 'tiger cages'.

This disclosure, together with the new US-Thieu crimes in Cay Dua jail, once again unmasked the utter hypocrisy of Nixon's braggings about "humanitarian treatment of prisoners." By killing defenceless prisoners, the US-Thieu clique have behaved like a pack of rabid dogs.

Once again, the Vietnamese people strongly denounce these towering crimes to the world and demand that the US end at once its aggressive war that has generated all the bloody crimes in Viet Nam

Western press comments

Saigon troops' poor show

AFTER a month of incessant attacks of the South VN People's Liberation Armed Forces, Nixon still had the cheek to repeat Abrams' bombast: "The South Vietnamese are fighting courageously and well in their self-defence" with American air and naval support.

But what is the true picture like?

AP remarked on April 29: "For the South Vietnamese (Saigon soldiers — Ed.), this month has been an insane game of chess — a desperate rushing of reinforcements from place to place to shore up defences against attacks from the red side of the board... The Communists (PLAF) have gained a victory because government defenders did not fight, did not move when they should have or pulled out when expected to stand fast... It appeared likely, as the offensive ended its first month, that the most serious damage was psychological. Some US officers said they were worried about the impact of repeated setbacks — especially those in which government forces retreated in confusion — on other units in the field."

The *Sunday Times* wrote on April 30: the liberation forces have chosen the right time and place in their skilful offensive. The South Vietnamese (Saigon army — Ed.) have been helilifted from one place to another to cope with this offensive of the Communists. They always come late and more often than not can hardly do anything. Even if the United States call theirs minor reverses the fact remains that the South Viet Nam army is reacting very poorly.

UPI commented on May 2: "The South Vietnamese (Saigon troops — Ed.) appeared completely disarrayed and they are not a fighting force any more."

This was substantiated by the realities on some majorbattlefronts. *AFP* wrote on May 2: "Highway Number One leading southward to Hue was the scene of a hurried withdrawal."

"Thousands of men belonging to the Third Infantry Division virtually vanished and units of Rangers were hurriedly heading south, many of them without arms, having abandoned their boots in order to run more quickly.

Real human clusters hang on to buses and scrambled into armoured cars running southwards."

This spectacle was depicted in more vivid terms by Sydney H. Schandery in the *International Herald Tribune* of May 3: Saigon troops are fleeing helter skelter from Quang Tri, confiscating private cars at gunpoint, keeping their rations but leaving their weapons behind, stoning Western reporters trying to snap them. Since the officers themselves are fleeing, there is no one to command the soldiers. On the Northern Hue front, there remain only a few thousand South Vietnamese (Saigon — Ed.) marines. The whole of the Third Division of about 10,000 infantrymen and 1,000 commandos have taken to their heels. Many soldiers did not stop at Hue but ran further southward, bringing along their guns, artillery, tanks and armour. On Highway One, south of Quang Tri, government (Saigon, Ed.) soldiers trained their guns at anyone trying to interfere, clinging to the front, rear, door and around any kind of vehicle: truck, tank, bus, car... They stole motorbike, four riding one bike. With their headlight on in full daylight, honking noisily, the vehicles carrying fleeing troops occupied most of the road-bed, pushing every other vehicles to one side...

In Binh Dinh province, when officials went out to investigate why they had lost radio contact with Allie fire base they found only five among the 500 men entrusted with the defence of the base. (*AP*, 29/4). Sources from the Central Highlands said that many units had melted away under communist pressure (*BBC* May 3).

In Tan Canh, the South Vietnamese were panic-stricken. Enemy tanks moved in at night and in these cases, the question has always been who would lose morale first. There can be no better opportunities to knock out tanks when they have come within close range in the depth of night in a built-up area where it is hard for tanks to move. This was actually the case of tanks (of the PLAF-Ed.) in Tan Canh. However, the troops (Saigon, Ed.) had fled in panic, instead of fighting back with rifles or light anti-tank guns. *International Herald Tribune*, April 29 and 30).

And what about American air support?

AFP noted on April 27: "The massive bombings around An Loc for more than half a month and still more massive bombings in the High Plateaux for more than two months now have failed to prevent Communist units from launching their offensive." BBC confirmed on May 3 that the air strikes could not regain the initiative for the Saigon armed forces.

About this tragic situation, *Reuter* wrote on May 3: The psychological factor arises in the attempt to regroup an army after defeat. The South Viet Nam rulers (Saigon, Ed.) and their American advisers are facing a major task of restoring their forces' fighting capacity. That is really a dilemna for them as their losses were two heavy in men and officers. A great many battalion commanders were not seen among the fleeing troops. But even if they were present, what could they do "these politicians-generals, these colonels too fat to get out of their helicopters, and majors too tired to jump down of their jeeps" whom *Jean Pouget* had met in Pleiku and Kontum? As for the American advisers, what can they do when they admitted they were unable to make these helicopters take off (*AP*, April 29)?

On May 3, the same agency reported: Disorganized government troops still are trying to reach Hue. The commanders have made every effort, usually without success, to send them back to their units to join in the defence of Hue city. According to *UPI* on May 4, they are "roaming about robbing and committing arson". The only thing we can say about pacification now is that it has probably failed, said one US official quoted by *AP* on April 29.

Thus, what can they expect from "Vietnamization"?

And here is what *Michael Hornsby* wrote in the *Times* on April 30: Ifthis vague concept—and it is certainly so — means to put the South Viet Nam army back on itself for enough time for the safe withdrawal of the last American, then everything will be lost. On the other hand, if Vietnamization is aimed at giving South Viet Nam the necessary military and political capability to prevent the Communists schemes in the foreseeable future, then never have the prospects been so bleak as today. As for *Peter Arnett* and *H. Fass*, they said that their "first main impression was that the South Vietnamese (Saigon troops Ed.) have not stepped into the shoes of the departing Americans despite Vietnamization". (*AP*, May 1).

Saigon mercenaries' rout after each onset by the PLAF

in the cities

• Workers have been laid off en masse by many firms and factories, as part of the US-Thieu scheme to replenish the battered Saigon armed forces. Maritime workers and seamen of the s/s *Thanh Huong* have been hit by the same measure. At the US Army Long Binh base, thousands of workers and half of the personnel have become jobless since May 1, 1972. At many other establishments, workers have been constantly threatened with unemployment. Trade-Union organizations have called on all workers and labouring people to unite in their struggle against victimization and dismissal and pressed for full payment by the US, Thieu and company owners of severance benefits and jobs for the workers.

• On April 28, the Seamen's Union and the Transport Workers' Union in Saigon decided on a general sympathy strike starting on May 1st to back the crew of the s/s *Thanh Huong*. The latter's walk-out which began last March has been receiving moral and material support from other unions. Many have declared readiness to hold similar strikes.

• On April 30, many youths and students demonstrated near Ben Thanh Market. They distributed leaflets in which they urged Thieu to release all the detained students, school pupils and lower the prices of rice and other staple goods and the US to end its aggression in South Viet Nam. At about the same time, many other placard-carrying youths and students demonstrated at the Nga Sau construction site. They claimed democratic liberties, better living conditions and restoration of peace, and castigated terror and military draft.

• On May 8, 1972, 31 progressive organizations in Saigon, including the Popular Front for Peace, the Women's Movement for the Right to Live and the Saigon General Association of Students, addressed an open letter to world peace organizations, condemning the US imperialists' war of extermination against the Vietnamese people and calling on the world bodies to intensify their activities for peace in Viet Nam.

• Under the impact of the sweeping offensives and uprisings of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people, the Thieu clique have clamped down on the population. In Saigon, besides forcing the people to put lights in front of their houses, they have ordered checking posts erected at the entrance to working people's living quarters. People have been asked to stand guard, and open and close the gates at fixed hours. This has greatly hampered the people's movement and normal activity. Saigonese working people wryly comment: "What can some cranky gates in back lanes do now that tens of thousands of troops armed to the teeth have been put to flight in Quang Tri?"

• On May 3, students of the Faculty of Letters (Saigon) put up a banner demanding that the Thieu clique release at once all students and school pupils still under arbitrary detention. They boycotted classes to protest police brutalities and encroachments on University autonomy. Earlier, April 29, medical students also displayed a banner calling for the release of Huynh Tan Mam and other students unwarrantedly arrested by Thieu's agents.

PLAF entering into Quang Tri

In the first fortnight of May 1972

* Keep up PLAF threat to enemy positions on High Plateaux Front
* Mekong Delta in effervescence

THROUGHOUT the week from May 1 to 7, a series of PLAF offensives on the High Plateaux resulted in an utter deterioration of the enemy situation at Kontum, on Highway 14 and in the whole Military Zone 4 (*AFP* May 3 and 8). Traffic on Highway 14 continued to be sealed off. Enemy troops busy clearing this artery were engaged by the PLAF, and the major part of Para-Battalion No 7 wiped out. The PLAF also made a deep thrust and assaulted the CP of Para-Brigade No 2 et the Ninh Duc crossroad, 8 miles north of Pleiku township. This lightning action put out of combat nearly all the command and US advisers. At Kontum, the PLAF dealt devastating blows at the Saigon rangers, knocking out 2 battalions (No 34 and 62), heavily decimating Battalion No 35, occupying Kleng post, the last adverse forward position at the Western gate of Kontum township. A US military spokesman in Saigon admitted that the fall of Kleng on May 9 was immediately followed by PLAF fierce onsets against almost all posts defending Kontum (*AFP*, May 9). Thus after wiping out the CP of Saigon Division No 22 and two regiments of that unit at Dakto-Tan Canh, the High Plateaux patriotic forces followed up their victory with withering assaults on the paras and rangers which were the enemy's strongest reserve forces, and aggravated his straits. The only para brigade (No 2) remaining in the High Plateaux previously had its Battalions No 2 and 3 knocked out on Hill 1049, now its Battalion No 7 also severely depleted, its battalion CP being blotted out had to flee to the vicinity of Saigon for replenishment. As for the rangers, they were thoroughly drubbed, those units stationed in the High Plateaux and the rescue ones from the Tri-Thien battlefield both suffered heavy losses and could not lend support to each other. Thus the Saigon mobile reserves on this front were battered beyond recovery, and the American press had to give the warning that Saigon had no more reserve forces left.

Alongside military onslaughts, the High Plateaux people rose up to dismantle concentration camps, get rid of the enemy coercive apparatus, liberate the major part of Kontum province and large areas belonging to Gia Lai and Darlac provinces. US pilots flying over the High Plateaux saw NFL flags now fluttering all over the villages of Kontum and of Northern Gia Lai (*AFP*, April 30).

On the Binh Long front, in two days, May 4 and 6, Regiment No 31 (belonging to Division No 21) and Armoured Regiment No 9 were heavily decimated north of Chon Thanh, 380 troops were wiped out and 15 aircraft shot down. Para-Brigade No 3 which had been hurriedly moved from the High Plateaux to reinforce the defence North of Saigon was badly mauled there. Two of its battalions, No 9 and 11, had been put out of combat on Hill 1085 (Kontum) now its Battalion No 2 suffered the same fate near Chon Thanh on May 2 and 6.

On the Tri-Thien front, the US-Saigon command strove to strengthen their defence south of the My Chanh bridge to stop the southwards advance of PLAF units from Quang Tri. On May 10 and 11, PLAF attacked marine brigade No 369 southwest of My Chanh bridge, exacting a toll of 300 enemy, and 30 military vehicles, and heavily decimating the brigade's light CP. On May 13, a probing column of the enemy who ventured North-west of My Chanh bridge was intercepted and took to flight, leaving behind 100 corpses and 6 personnel carrier-helicopters. Although the area north of My Chanh river was submitted to continuous bombing by US aircraft and sea vessels. Saigon troops on this front were living in the fear of attacks while Hue city spent its days in an atmosphere of oppressive tension.

The guerilla movement gained new momentum in the delta provinces of Central Trung Bo and Nam Bo. Military offensives closely combined with popular uprisings succeeded in smashing by big chunks the enemy coercive apparatus and dismantling concentration camps set up for "pacification." As rightly pointed out by the International Herald Tribune in its April 7 issue, the Mekong Delta which used to be the quietest area, now became a hot sector. Regional armed forces have made a new step forward and are able to fight big battles. From May 6 to 10, the patriots in Kien Phong and Kien Tuong provinces either wiped or heavily decimated 3 battalions of Regiments No 11 and 12 (Division No 7) deployed in disengagement operations on the fringe of the Plain of Reeds. While regional forces in Ben Tre province assaulted enemy posts, knocking out an entire battalion of Regiment No 10. Regional forces and guerillas in Tra Vinh province on the one hand mounted an offensive on the enemy at Can Long urban centre, and on the other intercepted enemy rescue columns, wiping out a company of "civil guards" on May 7.

The guerilla movement was focussing its actions on encircling and forcing enemy posts to evacuate. Good results had been achieved. In Tra Vinh province, in one night, the guerillas invested nearly 100 posts of the self-defence and popular forces, wiping out or forcing to evacuate posts. In Long An province, patriotic forces assaulted a series of enemy posts, besieging them day and night, forcing a number of them to withdraw, breaking completely the enemy coercive apparatus in several villages, thereby providing facilities for 7,000 people to rise up and regain control. An unprecedentedly high-spirited people's movement was born, which struck panic into the Saigon troops.

In the battle for Quang Tri

POWERLESSNESS OF US FIRE POWER

THE Dong Ha — Quang Tri defense line was a cluster of strongholds. In the South Viet Nam battle zone, major US-puppet bases of that type are rather small in number and are to be found only in big cities like Saigon, Da Nang and Hue, or at military complexes like Cam Ranh, Bien Hoa and Lai Khe. As it had to hold a key area, or a forward defense line as the US-Saigon Command put it, the Quang Tri defense complex had been strengthened and given priority in term of fire support to become the strongest defense line, especially after the fall of Northern Quang Tri.

Here, in a narrow area 5 by 17 kilometres, the US-puppets had garrisoned as many as 6 regiments and brigades of foot soldiers and marines, 4 armoured regiments and 4 battalions and 8 companies of heavy artillery, or the size of 2 infantry and 1 artillery divisions. This massive military build-up embraced 4 big strongholds, namely Dong Ha, Ai Tu, La Vang and Tich Tuong which were within range of supporting fire and lay on an open terrain, making it possible to bring into full play the lethality and effectiveness of the weaponry available. In this sector, too, the US-puppets had built a pretty comprehensive system of bases: including military HQ, airfields, fire bases and logistic compounds provided with all facilities necessary for long-term defense. The puppet forces here were directly officered by some 100 Americans (many of whom held high ranks). Apart from a network of concrete fortifications, underground bunkers and thick walling structures, built a long time ago and constantly strengthened for years, plus more than 200 tanks and armoured cars from 4 armoured regiments serving as a "steel shield" when on the defensive or as a spearhead when on the offensive, this military complex benefiited from the US air and fire assets at any time and in any direction.

Apart from its own fire power, constituted by over 100 heavy guns, it could call in navy gunfire from dozens of warships in the US 7th Fleet. From 175 mm artillery pieces able to fire from 27 kilometres and 8-inch howitzers to solidly sheltered guns and mobile batteries, with huge stockpiles of shells, the US and Saigon artillery jointly operated and supplemented each other, in an effort to build fire walls able to blunt the enemy attacks at long or short range and from any direction, and at the same time reduce the striking power of the PLAF artillery each time it went into action with whatever size and strength. The US-Saigon Command had done everything it could in order to make the most of the advantages of artillery, using it in both defensive and offensive actions, and in strike or pursuit actions in replacement of the ground-troops.

As to air power, the Americans held that they had absolute superiority. They had used all types of up-to-date aircraft, from jet fighter-bombers, electronic planes and helicopter gunships to B-52s, these strato-fortresses which had conducted carpet-bombings in the Quang Tri theatre of operation. The heaviest bombing campaigns in the annals of war had been launched, especially after the McNamara fence had been broken. Round-the-clock air strikes had been made to cover the Dong Ha - Quang Tri defenses. In some drives, more than half of the total number of B-52s available in the Pacific area had been used. 2,500 tons of bombs had been dropped in one day. At one time, as many as 200 war planes had been marshalled for heavy strikes in Quang Tri and in its close vicinity to provide maximum support for this defense complex.

After the new defense line had been built in Dong Ha under the direction of General Abrams and maximum US fire and air power had been committed, the US-Saigon Command confidently claimed that this defense complex was invulnerable.

But in fact, actual developments had upset all its calculations. The mixed strength of these major puppet strongholds and of US air and sea power had crumbled in the acid test of strength with the PLAF on the Quang Tri battlefield. What was the strongest military power of "Vietnamization" in a key sector had been unable to hold out for more than 5 days. From April 27 to May 1st, base after base, then the whole of the Dong Ha - Quang Tri military complex fell into the hands of the PLAF, without offering any significant counter-attack. The enemy resistance was smashed right at the start. Four infantry and 4 armoured regiments were completely destroyed, with nearly 10,000 men including many junior and senior officers being wiped out or taken prisoner. Solid fortifications crumbled. In the first two days of the Liberation onslaught alone, the Saigonese troops lost nearly half of their M-48 tanks in the northern sector (*AFP* April 30). With their high mobility and powerful strike power, the Liberation Forces at the very outset overwhelmed this dense network of fire power; many Saigonese fire bases were silenced, some batteries could not go into action, and many heavy artillery pieces fell intact into communist hands (*UPI* May 2).

FIGHTING at close quarters, the attacking forces sent the enemy into disarray, rendering his artillery ineffective. US naval gunfire could do nothing more than thumping into the broken formations of the puppet troops. US aircraft roared in without let up but failed to do the jobs of the foot soldiers. Over 40 engines were brought down in 5 days. Thus an entire cluster of well-fortified strongholds fast crumbled even with strong US fire support. In a night broadcast May 2, the BBC commented that the loss of Quang Tri was a setback not only for South Viet Nam but also for the US air and naval forces.

The powerlessness of US fire power had led to the bankruptcy of a series of tactics that count on fire power as the mainstay in this typical test of strength. The US tactic with reliance on major defense complexes evidently is a complete fiasco in this sector. Drawing experiences from battlefield realities, and from the power balance between the belligerent parties, the US-Saigon Command had come to this conclusion: in key theatres of operation if the puppet troops are dug-in on the defensive in small or medium sized bases, they will be easily wiped out by the PLAF as their own fire power is limited and US supporting fire, too scattered, will run into difficulty. Hence, the regroupment of the puppet troops to main entrenched camps and military complexes with a view to beefing up their ability to defend themselves. It had been estimated that the PLAF could not overrun such major bases as Dong Ha, La Vang and Tich Tuong in the Quang Tri defense complex, in one night. Thus the fighting would pass into the day when US air and naval support could be effectively provided and troops could be sent to the aid of the battered troops in time. But the offensive power of the PLAF has escaped the enemy's calculation. With good combat performance, the Liberation fighters have smashed enemy regiment and brigade-sized bases. They have fought sustained battles, made quick break-through, widened their field of activity, launched many attack prongs and destroyed one enemy base after another while US fire power remains powerless. Under the impact of the overwhelming offensive power of the PLAF, the weakness of the puppet troops have surfaced even more clearly. The bigger their concentration, the greater their flaws. They have found themselves in great trouble when asked to do joint fighting, and once a major defense complex crumbles, smaller defenses are fast dwindling. This is a very costly lesson for them after their debacle in Quang Tri-Dong Ha.

The air mobile tactic with reliance on helicopters and chiefly on US air power has also failed disastrously in this sector. This "newest tactical discovery", this "big advance in mobility and fire power" has once again proved its total impotence in face of a staunch and stubborn adversary possessing noticeably effective anti aircraft fire. In the aggressive operation into Southern Laos last year, this US tactic was already shattered with over 600 helicopters biting the dust.

Nevertheless, the US-Saigon Command still attached great importance to this tactic. More helicopters had been turned over to the puppet army. But this time, in Quang Tri, the US-puppets were unable to apply their air mobile tactic with the use of helicopters to ferry relief troops or evacuate the battered one. When 80 US advisers or so were to be flown out of this military complex before its fall, even in this first priority rescue operation, only 3 hours later could 3 HH 53's risking deadly fire make their landing (AFP May 1). In the final analysis what this tactic, regarded as the key to the war, could produce, is to pick up fleeing US advisers at a rather heavy price. (According to field reports, the US has lost 6 aircraft to rescue one American officer).

Quang Tri was a strong defense complex with maximum US fire support symbolizing the formula of "puppet ground troops plus US air support". It was destroyed in a rather short time. The Quang Tri debacle spells the manifest failure of US air and sea power, of US B-52s in the Vietnamized war. Forced to pull out US ground troops from South Viet Nam, Nixon wants to fill the gap by stepping up the air war. But once again, developments in the South Viet Nam battlefiel go to prove that this is sheer illusion. No measure taken by Nixon can prop up the puppet army now verging on its collapse.

US fire power becomes powerless when the puppet soldiers have poor combat performance and even lack the will to fight and are demoralised. As US fire power has already failed to add strength to US ground troops in a bid to secure a military win, how can it now beef up the puppet troops? Neither can it provide effective support for the puppet soldiers when the latter have no stomach for fighting. Despite the massive US air and naval intervention, the Saigon army was in a shamble at the Dong Ha-Quang Tri defence complex. While the Saigon main force units run into new deterioration, the PLAF grow stronger. As the latter have been able to deal major annihilation blows at the enemy in Dong Ha-Quang Tri, they are well in a position to defeat him on many other battlefields. The US-puppet defeat in Quang Tri will bring about a string of dark spots in all their defence lines across South Viet Nam. The fresh victory of the PLAF in Quang Tri eloquently proves that the Vietnamized war of the US-puppets can be defeated militarily even in an area where the enemy build-up is the strongest.

Whatever the size of the armada of planes and ships Nixon may dispatch to the rescue of the puppet troops, whatever emergency measures he may order, and despite the White House's blatant threat not to rule out all possibilities to take counter measures, they are doomed to utter failure.

THANH HONG

Enemy helicopter captured by the PLAF

US COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION CONCLUDED FRIENDSHIP VISIT TO VIET NAM

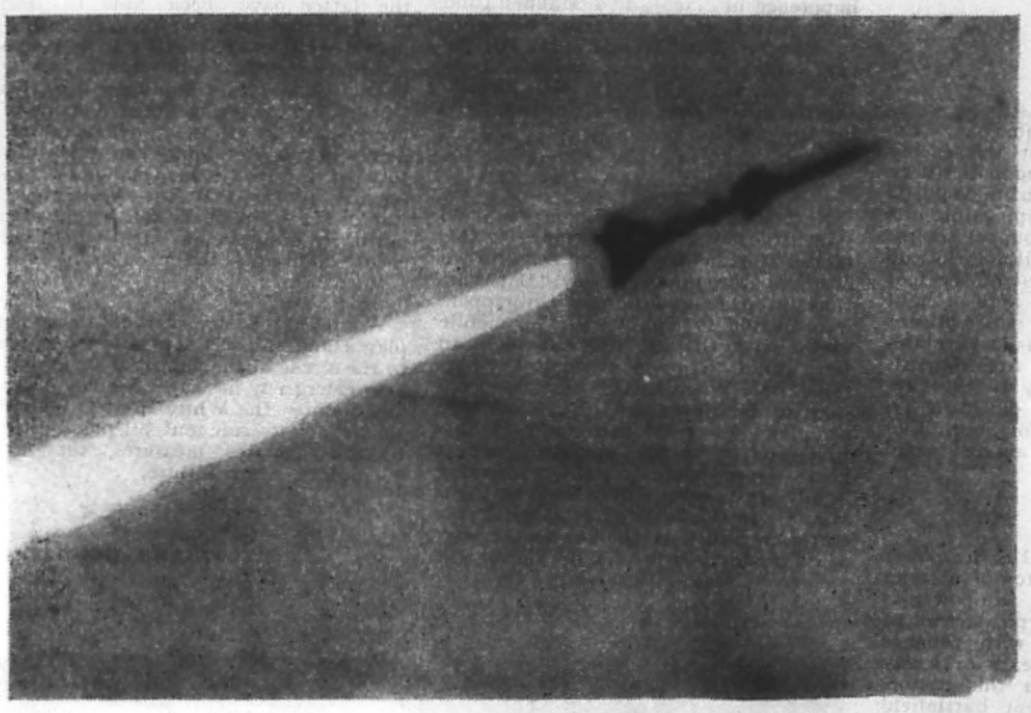
AT the invitation of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, a delegation of the Communist Party of the USA led by its General Secretary Gus Hall visited the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam from April 15 to 22. During its stay there, the delegation visited the home of President Ho Chi Minh. It also paid a visit to various economic and cultural establishments in Hanoi, Haiphong, Thanhhoa.

Wherever it came, it was given warm welcome by the local party and administration leaders, mass organizations and people which manifest the Vietnamese people's friendship and militant solidarity with the Communist Party, working class and progressive people of the United States. This also shows the Vietnamese people have drawn a clear line between the peace-and justice-loving American people and the US imperialists who are waging a savage aggressive war against the Vietnamese people.

On April 16, 1972 the delegation witnessed the brutal bombings by US aircraft against Hanoi and Haiphong. It issued a statement energetically condemning this extremely serious act of war escalation of the Nixon administration and stressing that it is the responsibility of the Communist Party and progressive people of the USA to take concerted actions and step up their struggle to stay the bloody hand of the US imperialists, demand the Nixon administration to immediately stop its war of aggression and promptly and seriously respond to the RSVN PRG's seven-point proposal, the two key-points of which have been elaborated, and support the Vietnamese peoples just struggle for independence and freedom.

The delegation attended a meeting held by the workers of the Hanoi Engineering Plant in response to the April 16, 1972, appeal of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee and the DRVN Government to express the Vietnamese working class and people determination to fight and defeat the US aggressors in order to defend the socialist North, liberate the South and proceed toward the peaceful reunification of the country.

The delegation called on the Special Representation of the RSVN PRG in the DRVN and reiterated the full support of the Communist Party and people of the USA for the Vietnamese peoples's patriotic struggle.



Left: *DRVN missile dashing at the US air marauders*

Above: *Two US "Phantoms" set afire in the DRVN skies*

the DRVN in brief

+ The DRVN National Assembly Standing Committee has held its routine session under the chairmanship of Speaker Truong Chinh. The Committee has heard reports by its Chairman on the developments of the anti-US pro-national salvation resistance war, and by the President of the Supreme People's Court on the latter's supervision of trials, and has taken a number of decisions on the Supreme People's Court's responsibilities.

+ National Assembly Chairman Truong Chinh has recently visited an exhibition of women artists organized by the Viet Nam Artists' Association.

After seeing over 150 oil, silk paintings, woodcuts, water colours and applied art works of nearly 100 women artists, Truong Chinh praised them and recommended them to continue improving their ideological outlook and art, and centre their works on serving the anti-US resistance for national salvation and socialist construction.

+ Hanoi regional army units have been very active in the mastering of combat technique and tactics and raising of combativity. They have closely co-ordinated actions with friendly units in readily frustrating all the US imperialists' new military adventure to defend the capital city's airspace and territory.

+ The Cuban Government has sent a 16-member voluntary medical team to help the fighting Vietnamese people. The team, headed by Dr Rafael Figerodo, Director of the Larvidat Medical Service, has arrived in Hanoi.

+ In response to the Viet Nam Workers' Party and DRVN Government appeal that "each citizen should be a staunch fighter against the US aggression and for national salvation" and with the Dien Bien Phu spirit, tens of thousands of youths from all parts of North Viet Nam stand ready to go up the line.

+ "*Three Readys*" Labour Youth Union members and young people in various street quarters and suburban districts of Hanoi have zealously taken part in the "Going up Festival". Street and district military committees have daily received hundreds of applications from youths volunteering for military service.

+ Tens of thousands of Labour Youth Union members and young people in Haiphong from the mainland to the distant islands, from the factories, construction sites, schools and streets to the villages and agricultural co-ops have come forward for combat assignment.

+ At the Hong Gai provincial capital, youths from various streets, district towns, mines to the countryside have been actively enlisting. In many places, the number of draftees was 5 or 10 per cent in excess of the plans. Youths of the Han, San Diu ethnic minorities have also applied for service in the army.

+ More than 200,000 public servants, labour youth union members and young people of various nationalities in Ha Bac province have also applied to join up.

+ Grass roots organizations of the Labour Youth Union in districts of Vinh Phu province have launched the "*Enlist in the Army*" movement. In less than a month, tens of thousands of union members and youths offered to bear arms or serve the fighting. In Thanh Ba district alone, nearly 5,000 youths from various villages, public organs, and schools have entered their names.

98 per cent of the villages in the province have built reserve force sections in which able-bodied youths have increased.

In Pious Memory of President Ho Chi Minh

THE TENDER-AND STEEL-HEARTED POET

(A few remarks on *Prison Diary*)

– (*Continued and concluded*)

Also about "music," but in an entirely different vein, here is a poem entitled **Scabies**

Covered with red and blue as though dressed in brocade,
Scratching all day long, we seem to be playing the guitar.
Honoured guests, of our rich garbs we make a parade.
Strange virtuosos, sharing an itch for music we surely are!

Here you are! Vietnamese optimism, irony, love of life and humour!... Ho Chi Minh's triumphant revolutionary optimism and laughter right in a Kuomingtan jail, atrocious spot full of gamblers, bugs, opium addicts, itch-mites, and syphilitics. Our prisoner shared the plight of his companions of misfortune:

Being in the same boat how could I refuse to help you?
On your behalf to the authorities I wrote that petition
"Whereas... in consequence of.." For such newly-learnt jargon
No end of thanks I got as my due.

Writing a petition for Jail-mates

A real comedy in which he played the "leading part". Lying on the cold floor of a cell, ill, yet kind and helpful, smiling ironically at the "authorities" and politely receiving endless thanks formulated in the purest Chinese style!

At time, it happened that awake, alone, he looked at them:

In sleep an honest look all faces adorn
Only when people wake does good or evil show
Good and evil are not qualities inborn
More often than not from education they flow.

Midnight

Philosophic meditation on man's perfectibility. Love and confidence in the masses. He praised and cherished the least park in the souls of even servants of a brutal regime:

A generous man Mr Mo, the Biniang chief-warder!
He buys rice for the prisoners with his own money;
At night he takes the fetters off for them to sleep better
He never resorts to force, only uses bounty.

Every daily event, impression, thought, everything was a suitable topic for *Prison Diary*. A single thought tormented him day and night: freedom for Viet Nam and for himself to serve his country.

My heart travels a thousand li to my country
Sadness turns my dreams into a thousand tangled skeins
An innocent man yet, I've been a whole year in chains
With tears dropping on my inkslab I compose a poem on captivity.

Autumn night

Ho Chi Minh's heart throbbed with love for his land.

The first watch... the second... the third dies
I toss about, restless: sleep would not come, it seems
The fourth watch... the fifth... No sooner have I closed my eyes
Than the five-pointed star haunts my dreams.

Sleepless Nights

IN jail, November 11 was a day for him to think of Viet Nam's suffering with especial bitterness.

Formerly when came the Eleventh of November
Of the armistice in Europe was observed the anniversary
Today bloody fighting rages the five continents over
The wicked NAZIS (1) for their crime bear the responsibility
.....
All over Asia anti-Japanese flags flutter
Big flags, little flags — in size they differ
Of course big banners must be present
But the little ones can never be absent.

Viet Nam's red golden-starred flag was absent, and Ho Chi Minh in jail!

And for him: "*One day within prison walls seems as long as a thousand years without.*"

Four months have passed

Not a day, an hour, a minute passed without his thinking of Viet Nam's destiny. In Viet Nam, his comrades were much worried about him. On receiving a message from Pham Van Dong, Vo Nguyen Giap rushed to Cao Bang only to learn the terrible news: Uncle Ho had died in a Kuomingtan jail! Months went by... Suddenly, on the margin of a Chinese newspaper, a poem in Chinese ideograms and bearing no signature, appeared:

The mountains embrace the clouds, the clouds hug the mountains.
The river below shines like a spotless mirror
On the slopes of the Western Range, my heart throbs as I wander
Looking towards the Southern skies and thinking of old friends.

(Later, the above poem was found in "*Prison Diary*" under the title: "*After prison, practising mountain climbing*".) It was him, his handwriting, his style! Ho Chi Minh alive! and free!

Nature was in sympathy with him!

The Weather Is Clearing Up!

Everything evolves, such is the law of nature
After days of rain, here's fine weather coming!
In an instant the earth has cast off its damp clothing
O'er ten thousand li the land spreads its brocade coverlure
Under a warm sun and balmy wind flowers smile with rapture
In the tall trees with shiny boughs birds their trills rehearse
Joy fills man's heart as well as the universe
After the bitter comes the sweet: so runs the course of nature.

At the foot of this magnificent Chinese "*wash-drawing*" two dates: *August* 29, 1942
September 10, 1943

395 days in jail! And in each day, he counted every hour, every minute!

Oh! The day when "*Red flags flutter around the white hair of Uncle Ho*"

Ho Chi Minh! The Old Soldier
Resolved to endure
Every sacrifice
For Viet Nam's Independence
For Peace in the World....

(To Huu)

Viet Nam! Ho Chi Minh! The whole world now resounds with these cries. The cries from peace fighters all over the five continents, the cries from Viet Nam Veterans, from honest Americans in the United States. Didn't American poet *Walt Whitman* write some fifty years ago in his *Preface to Leaves of Grass*: "*The proof of a poet is that his country absorbs him as affectionately as he has absorbed it...*"?

HO CHI MINH'S boundless love for oppressed and exploited people all over the world, has made him a great poet. But never did he think much of leaving behind some litterary creation. Not that he neglected literature. "*Art and culture* he said, *is also a fighting front*", and writers and artists are "*fighters on that front*". (*Letter to the painters*, 1952)

He, however, didn't think of himself as an artist, or that he was really writing poetry. Said he to those asking him about *Prison Diary*: "Oh! I would have forgotten if I had not been reminded of its existence. I'm not good at writing poems and my poems are not good. For long months I was confined in that gloomy solitary cell with my own shadow for only companion, forbidden to talk to anybody else. Nothing to do. Walking? The cell was five meters long, four meters wide! To "while the time away and relax" I could do only one thing: jotting down a few brief notes on a prisoner's life. That's all... Oh! No! They are neither poems, nor verses!".

But, peosy came to him when he didn't think of coming to it. Because, after all, nobility of spirit, sincerity of expression, are the soul of all times poesy. And Ho Chi Minh's soul is a marvellous creation, the fragnance of humanities from east to west enriched by the experience of a prodigious life, the finest ideal of our times. Poet *Kuo Mojo* finds in *Prison Diary* splendid poems matching the most famous *Tang* and *Sung* poems. This of course is not simply a remark on features common to Ho Chi Minh's verses and Chinese classical poetry, but essentially a high tribute paid to the artistry of his work. If our poet has attained such a height it is through sincerity of expression, through his traditional oriental culture, his alert intelligence sharply perceptive of every nuance in Nature and Man. And this has created in those poems by the first Communist in Viet Nam's history, the harmony, limpidity and intensity that is the hallmark of the best of *Tang* and *Sung's* poesy.

But, springing from his spirit which is "ever higher" (*To Huu*) his poems are not simply that. In *Prison Diary* readers can find besides Vietnamese essential features Anglo-Saxon humour and French wit. Ho Chi Minh didn't hesitate to use antique symbols to suggest new abstract concepts or ideals. "*Be loyal to thy King and pious to thy Father*" was part of the Vietnamese moral code of yore. Now addressing the Viet Nam People's Army, he said:

Our Army
Loyal to the Party
Pious to the People
(*Stand ready to*) *fulfil any tasks*
Overcome any difficulties
Defeat any enemy.

The omnipotent Oriental Emperors' symbol — the *Dragon* — under his pen, changes into a fighter held prisoner, who is burning with revolutionary fire:

Free, the prisoner can build the country
Misfortunes are tests of a man's loyalty
To worry about the common good is a great merit
Let the prison door open and the real dragon *no doubt will fly out.*

Ideograms Analysed

Original and "modern", our prisoner-poet does not hesitate to take liberties with the rules of traditional Chinese poetry. While "No Title" would have been used by Chinese poets as a title for certain poems, he preferred using ordinary Western punctuation marks to express certain feelings:

? !

Liuzhou, Guilin, and now again Liuzhou
Kicked back and forth like a soccer ball
Innocent, I've been dragged o'er Guangsi, to and fro
An end to this shuttling can one hope to call?

OF course *Prison Diary* is but a tiny part of an immense poem: Ho Chi Minh's intense revolutionary life! In poesy, the final question is not exclusively one of craft or skill, but first and foremost, one of *sensibility* and *power*. And art in our days must be *tender love* and *steely determination*. *Prison Diary* contains both. After reading the *Anthology of a Thousand Poets*, Ho Chi Minh came to the following assessment and conclusion:

Of Nature the Ancients were partial to singing the beauty
Moon and flowers, snow and wind, mist, hills and streams
But in our days poems should contain verses steely
And poets should form assault teams...

That was also his message to modern poetry. A Vietnamese poet, *Hoang Trung Thong*, meditating on *Prison Diary*, confides:

One hundred poems, one hundred noble thoughts:
Light penetrates into my youthful head
Every verse from Uncle Ho, is one of steel
Yet, what immense love it contains!

Indeed, Ho Chi Minh's poems are made of *tender love* and *hard steel*, that special kind of steel tempered in Viet Nam's 4,000-year history. And, in *Prison Diary*, this marks the grandeur of *Ho Chi Minh*, the poet with a tender and steely heart.

KHA DINH

(1) *Written in Latin capital letters in the Chinese text.*

In the United States

Spring offensive vigorously stepped up

THE powerful wave of protest against the Nixon war in Viet Nam, initiated by the American people a month ago, experienced a new surge after the US President delivered on May 8 a speech that challenged their conscience. *AFP* described the turmoil sweeping the United States from coast to coast as the biggest outburst of antiwar feeling in this country since the invasion of Cambodia in 1970.

An outstanding feature of the movement in the past few days was the prompt and relevant action taken by the masses, especially the students. Only two hours after Nixon's address on the night of May 8, antiwar demonstrations broke out in at least seven Universities. The anti-Nixon drive also gained momentum in Congress circles.

Meetings, rallies were coupled with other forms of dissent : encircling of government premises, blocking of entrances to air and naval bases, stopping of military convoys, paralysing of traffic on main communication lines, railroads and airports, protest parades throughout the night, torchlight processions, symbolic bombing and mining as warning to Nixon, filing suits against the US President, etc. Hundreds of thousands of people of all walks of life were involved in antiwar activities in Washington and other cities.

In California, widespread anti-Nixon demonstrations took place simultaneously, reducing the Santa Barbara airport to a standstill and cutting off the traffic on railways and motorways for several hours on end.

In New York at the UNO building, dozens of militants chained themselves to their seats in the Security Council meeting room and demanded that the UNO condemn the US Government as an "international war criminal".

Strong repressive measures were resorted to by US reactionary authorities. In the last few days, 2,000 people were arrested by the police including the President of Amberst University and the wife of the principal of Smith College. In Albuquerque, New Mexico, demonstrators clashed with the police in three successive days ; the police opened fire on them, wounding two, without abating the effervescence.

On May 13, the last day of the nationwide protest week against Nixon's serious war escalation, demonstrations, rallies, parades and other antiwar actions again erupted in 20 cities and towns across the United States.

In New York, ten thousand people gathered in front of a recruiting centre at Time Square, then marched on a park in the heart of the city, carrying anti-escalation banners.

In Minneapolis, Minnesota, ten thousand Americans took part in a 10-mile long march from Minnesota University to the State Capitol.

In Key Biscayne, Florida, demonstrators on five boats approached Nixon's holiday official residence to stage a symbolical mine laying in protest against the US President's warlike decision to mine the ports of the DRVN.

In Middlebury, Vermont, May 13 was the fifth day of a sit-in by students of the State's college in front of the ROTC.

In Chicopee, Massachusetts, for the 21st day, war protesters beleaguered the main entrance of the Westover air base and staged a sit-down demonstration in front of it. 200 people were arrested by the police, thus bringing to 1,200 the total number of people arrested at this air base alone.

The drive against Nixon reached a new high at the Senate and House of Representatives, drawing in many well-known political personalities. Many Congressmen described Nixon as a "madman" indulging in "reckless" moves in defiance of all international law, which no US President had till now dared to contravene. At the Senate, "heated and angry" debates were held and sleepless nights were spent by dozens of protesting congressmen on the steps of the Capitol against Nixon. More than 20 legislators passed a resolution asking Nixon to resign since he had "committed crimes against the nation" and "violated the US Constitution". They also brought a legal action against Nixon at the Federal Court. The same step was also taken by the New York Civil Liberties Union and by Harold Gibbons, vice-president of the Auto-workers' Union, and Borty Commoner, professor at the Washington University, to urge the administration to end the Viet Nam war. John Dooling, President of the Court, summoned Nixon and his chief military advisers, including Melvin Laird and Creghton Abrams, to appear before the court on May 16 to testify on their order to bomb and mine DRVN ports. The frenzied war acts of Nixon were opposed even by those serving now in the administration, such as the governor of Minnesota, the mayor of Chicago well-known for his "hawkish" stand. They were also objected to by 9 former members of Henry Kissinger's staff.

Senator E. Kennedy wrote on May 14 in the British "*News of the World*" that Nixon had promised to bring peace but he actually brought an enlarged war. He stressed that as a result of Nixon's short-sightedness in the war, more GI's would have to die, more innocent men, women and children would be killed and more US prisoners would be captured. So long as we still have a president who is prisoner of the war, we cannot have peace in Indochina, the senator added.

Many a US newspaper and agency remarked that Nixon's hopes for national union had collapsed and his frantic war measures had divided America more deeply than ever before.

Leaders of the American people's antiwar movement also declared they would take the movement to new peaks.

US dollar ragged by the Indochina war
From the Daily News

The Third World *in effervescence*

Thailand:

In March 1972, the patriotic armed forces and people launched powerful attacks against positions of the Bangkok army and put out of action 332 enemy troops, brought down and destroyed on the ground helicopters and wrecked 22 vehicles, including armoured cars.

From March 1 to 22 alone, they foiled a large-scale sweep involving 10,000 troops supported by aviation and artillery, in three provinces North of Thailand, knocking out 200 men, downed or damaged 6 aircraft, destroyed 3 vehicles, including two armoured cars, and captured a great amount of weapons and war equipment.

At the National Council of the Palestine Liberation Organization (April 8):

A joint statement was issued by 20 Arab organizations attending a recent session of the National Council. It flayed Hussein's blueprint for the formation of a so-called United Arab Kingdom as a part of the US imperialists' and Israeli aggressors' manoeuvres directed against the liberation of Palestine and the liberation movement of Arab countries. It reaffirmed total and unconditional support to the Palestine people's fight for the complete liberation of their land and restoration of their legitimate national rights.

Tanzanian United Republic:

On April 14, the Tanzanian Army shot down or set afire two aircraft of the Portuguese colonialists flying a bombing mission over Kitaya village. On the next day, the same village was bombed and suffered 7 civilian deaths.

The Tanzanian Foreign Ministry brought out a strong protest against this crime of the Portuguese colonialists and reaffirmed the determination of the Tanzanian people and government to grant full support to the fights of the peoples of Mozambique, Angola and Guinea (Bissau) and to all anti-colonialist liberation movements in Africa.

Guinea (Bissau):

In the first two months of 1972, the patriotic armed forces mounted 100 offensives against the Portuguese colonialists at Baffata, Katio, Pharim, Gabu and Mansoa, taking a toll of 112 enemy including 1 major, destroying 19 vehicles, sending to the bottom 4 launches. In 1971, they had attacked the enemy in all places, killing 3,500 of them, destroying 7 aircraft and 134 military vehicles.

In the liberated areas which covered two thirds of the territory the people's power has been consolidated and education and health facilities built.

At the Organization of American States' meeting in Washington (April 14 and 15):

The Chilean Deputy Foreign Minister denounced US threat of economic retaliation against Chile's nationalization of copper mines formerly owned by US companies. He also condemned the US administration's covering of ITT's attempts to prevent President S. Allende's advent to power in 1970.

At the same meeting, the Foreign Minister of Ecuador castigated US violation of the OAS Charter prohibiting the recourse to pressure to force another state to give up the defence of its national sovereignty (the United States had cut aid to Ecuador after this country seized US fishing boats that had violated its territorial waters).